

the researchers and health care providers to the important information they need to curb birth defects and prevent other tragedies like the ones along the Texas/Mexico border.

Biomedical researchers are making progress in preventing birth defects. Recently, scientists discovered the crucial role of the vitamin folic acid in preventing birth defects. Despite discoveries like this, the fact remains that researchers and health care professionals just don't know what causes most birth defects.

That's why this bill is so important. The bill establishes a National Information Clearinghouse on Birth Defects. This national, state-based, tracking system will count the number of babies born with birth defects, identify the causes and start community prevention programs. By learning all the facts surrounding birth defects, we have a chance to get ahead in the fight against them.

Education and research are key to fighting birth defects. With the programs established in the Birth Defects Prevention Act, hopefully fewer American families and children will be forced to live with the tragedy of birth defects.

I would like to conclude by recognizing the dedication of the March of Dimes in the fight against birth defects. Their hard work in trying to eradicate the number one killer of American babies is truly outstanding.

Mr. BRADY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in support of S. 419, the Birth Defects Prevention Act, and am pleased to be a cosponsor of its companion bill in the House of Representatives, H.R. 1114, which was introduced by two of my colleagues from the Texas delegation. As you know, this legislation was first introduced in the 102nd Congress in response to the tragedy that occurred in South Texas where a cluster of devastating birth defects escaped detection for several years.

S. 419 builds on legislation I introduced in the Texas House of Representatives in 1993 and that was signed into law. Anne Andis, from The Woodlands, Texas, was told when she was 10 weeks pregnant that her baby would be born with anencephaly, the same birth defect plaguing women and infants in South Texas. Her physician advised an induced delivery immediately. However, after agonizing over this decision with her husband and their two young daughters, they decided to have the child. Emma was born in February 1992 and lived for five days.

After Emma's death, Anne became involved in lobbying efforts to establish a birth defects registry in Texas after learning of the tragic situation in South Texas where an unexplained cluster of babies were being born with partial brains. Anne is a heroine because she agreed to make a very private tragedy public and was the motivator of Texas' efforts.

As you know, S. 419 calls for the establishment of a National Information Clearinghouse on Birth Defects to collect and disseminate to health professionals and the public information on birth defects, including prevention measures. It also directs the Centers for Disease Control to carry out, through the states, a program to collect, analyze and report statistics on birth defects.

Mr. Speaker, 150,000 infants are born each year with a serious birth defect. Many more children are found to have such disorders later in life. Families from all racial, ethnic and economic groups share the risk of having a child with a serious birth defect. Furthermore, for more than 20 years, birth defects have been

the leading cause of infant mortality. Surveillance is necessary to track the incidence of birth defects and reduces their impact of public health. Again, I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation. We can not begin to stop birth defects until we know when and where they are occurring. For families across our Nation like the Andis family, we must pass this legislation.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on S. 419, the Senate bill presently under consideration.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we have Senator BOND here, who I know must be chomping at the bit to get up and talk about this. We are certainly very grateful to him for his leadership in the Senate. I guess our rules do not allow that.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the Senate bill, S. 419.

The question was taken.

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I and the Chair's prior announcement, further proceedings on this motion will be postponed.

#### RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12 of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 5 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 4 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess until approximately 5 p.m.

□ 1700

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. SHIMKUS). Pursuant to the provisions of clause 5, rule 1, the Chair will now resume proceedings on approval of the Journal and put the question on each motion to suspend the rules on which further proceedings were postponed earlier today in the order in which that motion was entertained.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Approval of the Journal de novo; House Concurrent Resolution 206, by the yeas and nays; and S. 419 by the yeas and nays.

The Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the time for any electronic vote after the first such vote in this series.

#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 5 of rule I, the pending business is the question of the Speaker's approval of the Journal of the last day's proceedings.

The question is on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. BARRETT of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I object to the vote on the ground that a quorum is not present and make the point of order that a quorum is not present.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Evidently a quorum is not present.

The Sergeant at Arms will notify absent Members.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 365, nays 39, not voting 26, as follows:

[Roll No. 40]

YEAS—365

Abercrombie	Conyers	Gordon
Ackerman	Cook	Goss
Aderholt	Cooksey	Graham
Allen	Cox	Granger
Andrews	Coyne	Green
Archer	Cramer	Greenwood
Armey	Crapo	Gutierrez
Bachus	Cubin	Hall (OH)
Baesler	Cummings	Hall (TX)
Baker	Cunningham	Hamilton
Baldacci	Danner	Hansen
Ballenger	Davis (FL)	Hastert
Barcia	Davis (IL)	Hastings (WA)
Barr	Deal	Hayworth
Barrett (NE)	DeGette	Heger
Barrett (WI)	Delahunt	Hill
Bartlett	DeLauro	Hobson
Bass	DeLay	Hoekstra
Bateman	Deutsch	Holden
Bentsen	Diaz-Balart	Holroyd
Bereuter	Dicks	Horn
Berman	Dingell	Hostettler
Berry	Dixon	Houghton
Bilbray	Doggett	Hoyer
Bilirakis	Dooley	Hulshof
Bishop	Doolittle	Hunter
Bliley	Doyle	Hutchinson
Blumenauer	Dreier	Hyde
Blunt	Duncan	Istook
Boehlert	Dunn	Jackson (IL)
Boehner	Edwards	Jackson-Lee
Bonilla	Ehlers	(TX)
Boswell	Ehrlich	Jefferson
Boucher	Emerson	Jenkins
Boyd	Engel	John
Brown (FL)	Eshoo	Johnson (CT)
Brown (OH)	Etheridge	Johnson (WI)
Bryant	Evans	Johnson, E. B.
Bunning	Everett	Johnson, Sam
Burr	Ewing	Jones
Burton	Farr	Kanjorski
Callahan	Fawell	Kaptur
Calvert	Foley	Kasich
Camp	Forbes	Kelly
Campbell	Ford	Kennedy (RI)
Canady	Fossella	Kennelly
Cannon	Fowler	Kildee
Cardin	Frank (MA)	Kilpatrick
Carson	Franks (NJ)	Kim
Castle	Frelinghuysen	Kind (WI)
Chabot	Frost	King (NY)
Chambliss	Gallegly	Klecza
Christensen	Gejdenson	Klink
Clayton	Gekas	Klug
Clement	Gibbons	Knollenberg
Coble	Gillmor	Kolbe
Coburn	Gilman	LaFalce
Collins	Goode	LaHood
Combest	Goodlatte	Lampson
Condit	Goodling	Lantos